

IN THE CLAIMS

1-32 (canceled)

33. (new) A metal-ceramic composite material for friction/sliding applications, comprising a base composition of at least one metallic phase with a content of 30 to 75 vol.-% of aluminum and its alloys and at least one nonmetallic inorganic component with a content of 25 to 70 vol.-% as a ceramic material comprising a titanium oxide, a silicate or an aluminum oxide, the ceramic material comprising at least one of 40 to 60 vol.-% Al_2O_3 , with a thermal conductivity greater than 50 W/mK, a flexural strength of about 300 MPa and a modulus of elasticity of about 160 GPa, or 60 to 80 vol.-% SiC with a thermal conductivity of at least 180 W/mK, a flexural strength of about 300 MPa and a modulus of elasticity of about 200 GPa; wherein the surfaces in contact with a friction/sliding partner have an Ra value less than 1 μm .

34. (new) A metal-ceramic composite according to claim 33, wherein the composition contains 60 to 80 vol.-% of SiC and 20 to 40 vol.-% of Al.

35. (new) A sliding ring comprising a metal-ceramic composite of claim 33.

36. (new) A slide/friction pairing comprising a metal-ceramic composites according to claim 33, wherein the pairing comprises a first partner consisting of a metal-ceramic composite (MCC) and a second partner consisting of MCC, carbon, Al_2O_3 , SiC, hard metal (HM), ZTA (Al_2O_3 and ZrO_2) or plastic.

37. (new) A slide/friction pairing according to claim 36, selected from the group consisting of MCC/carbon, MCC/ Al_2O_3 , MCC/SiC, MCC/MCC, MCC/HM and MCC/ZTA ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{ZrO}_2$).

38. (new) A slide/friction pairing according to claim 36, selected from the group consisting of MCC/carbon, MCC/ Al_2O_3 , MCC/SiC, MCC/MCC, MCC/HM and MCC/plastic.

39. (new) A slide/friction pairing according to claim 36, selected from the group consisting of MCC/carbon, MCC/SSiC, MCC/Al₂O₃, MCC/MCC, MCC/HM and MCC/ZTA.
40. (new) A slide/friction pairing according to claim 36, selected from the group consisting of MCC/SSiC, MCC/Al₂O₃, MCC/MCC, MCC/HM and MCC/ZTA.
41. (new) The metal-ceramic composite of claim 33, wherein said at least one metallic phase comprises aluminum or an aluminum alloy.
42. (new) The metal-ceramic composite of claim 33, wherein said ceramic material is selected from the group consisting of silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, titanium oxide and a silicate.
43. (new) The metal-ceramic composite of claim 36, wherein at least one of said first or second partners is fiber-reinforced.
44. (new) The metal-ceramic composite of claim 38, wherein at least one of said first or second partners is fiber-reinforced.